Approved For Relea CLASSIFICATION GEORGE /CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ON CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. INFORMATION REPORT CD NO. 31 March 1950 DATE DISTR. Czechoslovakia NO. OF PAGES Armored Vehicles of the 21st Tank Brigade NO. OF ENCLS. 25X1A RETURN TO CIA LIBRARY SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. ST 34 tanks:

COUNTRY

SUBJECT

PLACE

ACQUIRED

DATE OF

INFO.

- a. The designation ST 34 tank is generally used within the Czechoslovakian Army. It is believed to stand for Sovetsky Tank 34. (1)
- b. A shipment of about 100 tanks of this type arrived in Zatec in late July 1949. Officers who witnessed the detraining of the tanks said that another shipment of tanks was expected to arrive in Zatec. Source did not stay in Zatec long enough to observe the arrival of this second shipment.
- with five-pointed white stars on their turrets, outwardly appeared as if they had never been used before (the stars were scraped off later). Inside, however, they indicated a long period of service, fellow-soldiers said. 2d Lt Tuma, the technical officer of the 21st Tank Brig; who had served with a tank unit of the Czechoslovak Eastern Army during the war, believed the tanks had been shipped to Czechoslovakia from the Soviet Union (2), and added that a second training center for tank troops would probably be established in Zatec in 1949. He had gathered this from officers of the 21st Tank Brig.

 by tank drivers that the welding seams on the tanks had not been smoothed.
- 2. Track-laying carriers: The brigade was equipped with 20 to 22 carriers which had been brought from Great Britain. The vehicles were not used for training purposes. (3)
- Half-track vehicles: The brigado had about 45 half-track vehicles of British make (armored porsonnel carriers). (4)

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25X1X Comment:

The 21st Tank Brig at 3 a.m. one day received a radio order to participate in the large-scale 1949 summer maneuvers at the Kaiserwald troop training grounds. The first tank group did not reach the maneuver area at Lazne Kynzvart (N 51/P 56) before 5 p.m. Only Cromwell tanks took part in the maneuvers. (5)

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Corment :

- (1) Undoubtedly T 34 tanks.
- (2) (a) The number of T 34 tanks alleged to have arrived in Zatec wascorrected during the second interrogation and still appears rather high (a hundred T 34 tanks) if all the tanks are ssumed to be destined for the 21st Tank Brig alone. The assumption that the tanks had been delivered from the Soviet Union is considered to be correct.
- b. According to previous information, the T 34 tanks available in Czechoslovakia in early 1949 numbered about 130. They had been delivered by the Soviets in 1945 and 1946 and were assigned to the 11th and 12th Tank Brigs.

 As the Czechoslovakian Army meets with great difficulties in obtaining spare parts and ammunition for its B ritish-made tanks, it is believed probable that efforts are being made to replace these tanks by T 34 tanks.

 It is noteworthy that the T 34 tanks delivered by the Soviets for the rearmament of the Czechoslovakian tank troops had been in use and rossibly/gone through the war.
- (3) Probably the repeatedly reported B ren and Lloyd carriers which belong to the 44th SLIG Bn or the Zatec armored personnel carrier infantry battalion (Czech abbreviation: Kolov) which has been reported several times.
- (4) The half-track vehicles, probably belonging to the 44th SIG Bn, are of German origin or are US vehicles assigned to the brigade when it was activated in Great Eritain.
- (5) The report confirms that the 21st Tank Brig was still equipped with Cromwell tanks in the Summer of 1949. The brighde's tank equipment also included some Stuart tanks.

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